

Coastline

A Magazine for the Dawlish Coast Churches

Edition 22 Advent, Christmas & New Year 2023/4

St George's Holcombe St Gregory's Dawlish St Mary's Cofton



By kind permission of Mary Moulds



All items for the next edition of Coastline to the editor by 21st January

See Benefice E-newsletter for more details of events. To receive a regular emailing of **Coastline** and the newsletter email, contact st.gregs@btinternet.com This Magazine is available free electronically to those who subscribe. Hard copies are provided free of charge but donations to church funds are always appreciated! If you are **not online** and would like a hard copy, please enquire at each church for the arrangements that are being made. We encourage those online to pass copies to those who are not!

Welcome Linda, Steve and family!



The Revd Linda Cronin is to be the new Rector of the Dawlish Coast Churches and her Licensing is planned for Thursday 15th February 2024. More details in due course. Linda and her husband, Steve are currently in Northern Ireland, but Linda was born in Newton Abbot and has served most of her ministry in England. Please pray for Linda and Steve and their family (4 children, 2 grandchildren) as they prepare to join us.

Loving and Gracious God, We give you thanks for this our Diocese and all who build the living body of Christ. Inspire us with your vision. Lead us in the ways of your Son, Jesus Christ. Give wisdom and discernment to those who will choose our new Bishop. Help us to be faithful in our lives and our prayers. In Christ's name. Amen



From the Diocesan Website



The Advent Prayer Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Advent Sunday 3rd December

4pm. Churches Together in Dawlish and District Advent Service in St Agatha's.
5pm. Christingle, St Paul's Starcross
Weds 13th 6pm Christmas Tree Festival Opens
Thurs 14th Carols & Readings 7pm St Mary's Hall
Sat 16th Five Choirs Concert in St Greg's **3pm**
Sun 17th: Carol Services
St Mary's, **4pm** (no morning service)
St Greg's **6.30 pm** (Greg's @10 at 10 am)
Weds 20th Carol Service at St George's, **4pm**
Thurs 21st 4pm St Mary's Service of the Longest Night

Christmas Eve at St Greg's
10.00 Said Holy Communion
5pm Crib Service
11pm, "Midnight" Communion led by the Archdeacon of Exeter, Andrew Beane
At St George's
9.30 Christmas Communion
4 pm Crib Service

At St Mary's
4.30 pm Crib Service
6.00 pm Christmas Communion



Christmas Day
10.00 family Communion

St Paul's Starcross Sunday 17th December
9.30am Holy communion 6pm Carol Service
Sunday 24th December
5pm Crib Service
Christmas Day
9.30am Christmas Day Communion

Benefice Service; Sunday 31st, St Mary's Cofton, 10.30
No other services in any of our churches that day.

Archbishop of Canterbury Says He Will Remember the People He Has Met After a Packed Remembrance Weekend Tour of Devon

The Archbishop of Canterbury led the annual Remembrance Sunday service on Plymouth Hoe at the end of his packed weekend tour of Devon. During his prayers, deluged by torrential rain, the Most Rev'd Justin Welby remembered those that had fallen in both World Wars, along with those who have fallen since. He also remembered members of the military currently on deployment, and those fighting in wars around the world today. He said,

“We take to heart the word from the poem *In Flanders Field*, and thank all those who carry the torch that gives us freedom and liberty.”

The Archbishop also shared the need for peace in our world, something which he has made a priority during his time in office. He said,

“In our remembering, we pray for a world that may find peace. That in the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘we may not know war anymore.’ In hope, we turn to God, seeking strength, resilience, and courage, and in God we find hope. We find direction, and light amidst the darkness.”

On Saturday Archbishop Justin took part in Armistice Day Commemorations in Torquay, which included a service at St Mary-the-Virgin church. This year marks the 80th Anniversary of a World War Two bombing raid on the church in which 21 children and three adults were killed during a Sunday School service. During the service Archbishop Justin reflected on the current situation in Gaza and Israel. He said,

“In the Holy Land they will be remembering those 1400 people terribly murdered just over a month ago. “In Gaza, they will be remembering the thousands of children who have now died in the bombing. This church speaks most vividly of Remembrance. It points most determinedly to the need for change.”

The Archbishop also took part in the civic Armistice commemoration at Torquay War Memorial and a Walk of Reflection for Peace around Torquay harbour. During the walk he showed local school children an iron cross he carries, which is made from an automatic rifle surrendered during a gun amnesty in the United States. In a reference to the book of Isaiah, he spoke of ‘swords becoming ploughshares’ and prayed for us all ‘to become ploughshares for peace’.

The Archbishop’s visit to Devon was a part of a weekend of mission for parish churches called ‘Come and See’. During the weekend churches across the county

hosted outreach events for their communities. As well as taking part in Remembrance events, the Archbishop visited Ilfracombe Academy and Primary school and answered questions from pupils and teachers, on subjects including how heavy was the King’s crown at the coronation, what it was like to be kidnapped and whether he preferred jam first or cream first on his scones.

The Archbishop also took part in Holsworthy Livestock Market’s annual Harvest service and a bereavement event at the University of Exeter, (see below) and took part in a candlelit walk of reflection to the chapel. He paid a private visit to the Living Room at St Mary Mags church in Torquay, which works with people living with homelessness and addiction; and he spoke about the pressing need to work collaboratively to tackle climate change and inequality when he addressed a gathering of leaders of public and private sector organisations at a dinner to thank them for their contribution to Devon life.



From Ceri Lee

I attended 'The Archbishop in Conversation' event at The Forum in Exeter University.

The 'Conversation' referred to in the title of the event was actually three separate intuitive, honest and sensitive 'chats', all surrounding the subject of grief and loss. First there was Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds, from the Good Grief Project, whose son was killed at age 22 in a car accident in Vietnam. Then Rev'd Stuart Hallam, a former Royal Marine Padre, now a chaplain at Channings Wood Prison, who suffered from PTSD as a result of losing close comrades whilst in Afghanistan on the front line. Lastly there was Meg Loney, a former member of the folk rock group Wildwood Kin and current Youth Pastor at St Basil's Church, whose brother died by his own hand seven years ago. Archbishop Justin also spoke movingly throughout the (*cont opposite*) a

We're at that time of year again!

But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? At its heart, Christmas is all about a God who has showed up on earth. The Creator of the universe, whose hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby. 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' (John 1:14) Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, innkeeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! Why do we do all this? It's to remind us that God deals with the mess of our world by sending His Son to die in our place. This makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Himself:

When the time came, He "did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start understanding the heart of the Christmas message. However, it's so much more than simply a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;

If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;

But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.

Cont from previous page

afternoon about his own experience following the death of his firstborn daughter, Johanna, in a car crash in Paris at 7 months old.

We were also treated to some wonderful music. If you've never heard the Irish (Gaelic) hymn 'Ag Criost an Siol' then I strongly recommend a listen! The University Choir sang it so beautifully that I not only had to make use of a Kleenex tissue myself but also hand them out to everyone seated in my row! I came away from the event feeling that it had been a real privilege to have been there. I'm told it was audio recorded. If this information is correct then DO look out for it on the Diocese of Exeter website.

A Warmer Place held in St George's Church Room on 15th November raised £90 in Donations for Children's Hospice South-West. Thanks to all who came and to the soup and cheese scone makers. A lovely social event. Next 'A Warmer Place' Wednesday 17 Jan 12 to 2.



And while we are thinking about bringing warmth and good cheer ... see below!

Most of us probably know that on December 26th (the Feast of Stephen) 'Good king Wenceslas' looked out, *writes David Winter*. We probably also know that the snow lay round about, 'deep and crisp and even'. Beyond that, he's just someone in a carol that's not often sung nowadays.

However, Wenceslas was a real person, a duke, and effectively king of Bohemia in the 10th century. In modern terms, he was Czechoslovakian. He was known as a generous and kind monarch, deeply Christian and given to good works. So the story in the carol by the Victorian hymn-writer J.M. Neale, while possibly fictitious, is at least in line with his recognised character. 'Page and monarch' braved the 'bitter weather' and the 'cruel wind's wild lament' to take food and fuel to a poor man living rough.

Neale's carol was enormously popular in the 19th century, because it perfectly expressed Victorian Christian ideals of benevolence and alms-giving. Christian men of 'wealth and rank' are urged to help the poor, and so 'find blessing'. Ignoring the 'wealth and rank and men' bit, it's still good advice, at Christmas or any other time.

Come and Pray: Prayer and Worship Gathering

Saturday 2 December, 11am-4pm at

Exeter Cathedral

*Bishop Jackie is inviting people across Devon to take part in a Diocesan day of prayer, **Come and Pray**,*

The Come and Pray Event at Exeter Cathedral will feature different forms of prayer, prayer stations for all ages, acts of worship led by Bishop Jackie and Bishop James, and music from the Christian singer songwriter Andy Flannagan and the Exe Valley Community Choir. It will end with carols in the Christmas market. We are encouraging church groups to come together for all or part of the day.

The main worship will be livestreamed. You can stay for the whole thing or just come for part of it. In addition there will be an online prayer room and prayer resources published beforehand so people can take part wherever they are.

The night before Christmas when all are abed,
As reindeer and sleigh bells are heard overhead,
Children still sleeping will early arise,
With shouts of delights as they open each prize.

A doll for Amanda, a toy soldier for Jo?
Ah, these are toys of long ago!
Now it's computers, a party dress,
Gifts so expensive they're meant to impress.



But the real joy of Christmas forever will stay,
As church bells and carols proclaim that glad day,
As wise man and shepherds recount what they saw,
Of Mary, her Baby – and a bed full of straw.

By Megan Carter

New Year (Gal 3:29, Mt 28:20)

Jesus,

Heir of the promise,
Hope of the years,
You are here.



Help us Lord,
To know that You
are *there*, too,
Before us
As You are behind us,

Already in the new moment,
The new day,
The new year.
Help us Lord

To delight in Your company,
To walk Your safe way,
To shine Your clear light
Of hope for the year.

By Daphne Kitching

Fri 17 Nov– Sun 17 Dec Cathedral

Christmas Market. With a 100+ chalets and free entry into the Cathedral including the Light of Hope Star installation by artist, Peter Walker. Monday-Wednesday: 10am-7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 10am-9pm;
Sunday: 11am-5pm

Babies do that to you

After the lights and the kisses,
the visits and the visitors,
the presents and the promises,
only a Baby remains;

and parents who have never
been this way before.
After the dreams and the whispers,
the angels and the merry-makers,

comes the silence;
comes crying in the night,
a long, interrupted journey,
along a strange path.

Things will never be
as they were before
Babies do that to you;
Jesus does that to you.

But He comes with you all the way,
carrying love in His tiny hand,
holding heaven in His heart.

by Tim Lenton

We know not what the future holds,
but we do know who holds
the future.. – *Willis J Ray*

If you are struggling with your bills, or need any advice or pastoral care, please don't be afraid to ask for advice or help. See contact details on the back page.
And if you are able to get out and about, remember the places where you can sit in the warm, like the Library.

Prayer for Gaza and Israel from Tear Fund

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world. Amen.

Pray for the work of Mosaic Middle East and St George's Church Baghdad—from their website

- Pray for the St George's Clinic. For the team of doctors and nurses who work there; for patience, clear-thinking and good teamwork.
- Pray for the people the Church and Clinic serve. These include some of the most vulnerable, the sick, the local refugee population. Pray for peace and prosperity to return in hearts and minds and for the practical, emotional and spiritual help they need
- Pray for protection for the church attendees, the staff of the Clinic and Church and the wider community as they live and work in what remains a volatile city.
- Pray for Rev'd Canon Faez Jirjees at St George's. Thank God for his ministry and leadership. Pray for strength, wisdom and peace for him and his family.

Prayer Requests from Open Doors

Christmas Eve Attacks on Christian communities often happen around Christmas time. Pray that Christmas services will be peaceful and full of hope, and that many will be drawn to Jesus' light through the persecuted church's witness.

Praise God for the joy of **Christmas**, and pray that it is felt and celebrated by persecuted Christians around the world.

Boxing Day Pray for families who are separated over Christmas time due to persecution, including those imprisoned, abducted or under house arrest. Pray they know Jesus near to them, and that their hope in God will be renewed and strengthened.

A glimpse of the next three feet of road is more important than a view of the horizon. – C S Lewis



Amount raised for



Aid to Ukraine

From Saturday 11th November

£1,168.78

From sales before, including
online, and after

£327.98

Total £1, 496.76

£20 given to Hall funds

Total each to Christian Response to Eastern Europe (CR2EE) and Liubov's friend, Maxim

£738.38

That amount has been paid to CR2EE

As we raised far more than expected, Liubov and Maxim are working out the most cost-effective way of spending the funds—whether to buy in Ukraine or buy here and ship out.

“Thank you very much. It means a lot to see people remember and keep supporting us”

Love Liubov

Cockwood



Ukraine



Hugh Scudder from
Christian Response to Eastern Europe
in conversation with Liubov.

Please pray for the work of CR2EE in both Moldova and Ukraine; working under martial law brings unique challenges.

A candle loses nothing by lighting
another candle. – Anon



A Rocha UK's

Big Green Vision

Webinar, 22nd November

(in case you are wondering, a "webinar" is the word that has been coined for an online seminar, a seminar on the web!)

Presenters

- Chair of Trustees, Revd Dr Mike Perry, former re- search biologist
- Andy Atkins, the CEO. Has worked for Tear Fund and Friends of the Earth
- Andy Lester, Head of Conservation Projects
- Helen Stephens, Church Relations Manager; heads up Eco Church Scheme

A Rocha firmly believes that they have a calling to help Christians care for creation and that engaging with this calling can give hope.

8 years ago, they felt God challenging them to make a much bigger difference:

Abundance of wildlife in UK has collapsed – one of most nature poor countries on earth.

Environment is affecting people and animals.

They concluded that in the absence of strong inter-governmental and governmental action, sections of society had to act themselves and **that Christians and Churches could play a game changing role**

A Rocha's Mission:

equipping Christians and Churches to care for the environment, for God, nature and all people.

3 years ago they set out the Big Green Vision which included among other targets:

25% of churches in Eco Church

25,000 acres managed by Partners in Action

There are currently 6,758 Eco Churches in England and Wales, about 14.5 % across all traditions.

Challenges – the cost of living surge; multiple demands on churches

But – higher public awareness, denominations are committed to net zero, and climate and biodiversity action are mutually beneficial.

They collaborate with many organisations.

Example of **St Mary's Emsay**, a smallish, rural Gold Award Church. (see their website!)

They advertise their countdown to net Zero, "net zero for the sake of our neighbours both local and global. Our love for others impels us"

Among many things they hold meetings exploring issues through poetry and writing in a local pub.

Andy Lester shared a story of a wasteland which was used by drug dealers which was transformed into a beautiful area. The local head drug dealer visited to say how they liked what the church was doing and would not worry them, in fact he offered to help!

A Rocha's Foxearths site is now recognised as having the highest number of damselflies and dragonflies in the UK.

If you create it, they will come.

**All by God's grace
and the incredible support of others.**

The webinar is now available for anyone to view on A Rocha's YouTube channel.

Food Waste

King Charles is on a mission to tackle food poverty and rising food waste.

It is said that he and the Queen eat daily slices from the same cake until it is finished, as part of a drive to curb their personal food waste.

As for the nation, the king has been increasingly concerned that in the UK, 12 million tons of food is thrown away each year – even though almost three quarters of it could still be eaten, according to experts. In contrast, an estimated 4.7million people are living in food poverty.

To combat this problem, King Charles has launched The Coronation Food Project, to coincide with this, his 75th year.

Up to eight new food hubs around the country will store food, prepare it, and package it, before redistributing it to organisations like food banks and community kitchens. The long-term goal is to circulate 200 million meals a year.

In the meantime, King Charles is careful not to throw his cake away. **Is there one simple thing you could do in your own kitchen this Christmas, to curb your personal food waste?**



First church in Wales achieves Gold Eco-Church Award.

St Peter's Church in Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, near Ruthin
From A Rocha's online magazine

As part of their work towards a gold award, they have developed the churchyard into a welcoming green space to support wildlife and biodiversity. They encourage

native wildlife by providing bird boxes, a bug hotel, sowing wildflower seeds, and a labyrinth area with a seat and space for quiet contemplation. The church is a very popular spot for the start and end of walks in the area, and visitors can get a Fairtrade coffee inside. The 'Capel Beuno' area is popular amongst the youngsters of the church and wider community, where they meet regularly around the fire pit, sitting on seats recycled from wood pallets. Fallen trees have been crafted into two altar tables used for outside services.

Father Huw Bryant, shared, *"We are delighted to have achieved this award ... We have been working for several years towards this, not for its own sake, but to embed good care for creation and stewardship of our resources into all that we do as we aim to be carbon-positive by 2030.*

Getting the gold award has been a real journey that began with opening up our churchyard, getting the local community and school involved in planting bulbs and wildflowers and creating new spaces as a sanctuary for both wildlife and people. But it developed into so much more than that, from making sure our energy supplies are from renewable green sources to finding environmentally friendly cleaning supplies. We've not only measured our own carbon footprint but encourage our community to measure their footprints too, and to take steps in their individual lives to live out their faith by reducing their consumption and doing little things to benefit the environment, from car-sharing to taking part in no-mow-May."

The Church is an important part of a close rural community in northeast Wales where what they do rubs off on others around them, and great teamwork is evident here. It is encouraging to hear that they have been blessed with growing numbers, and much of this is down to their practical activity outside – caring for creation and providing lovely spaces for people to meet and contemplate

All of our churches + St Mary's Hall have the bronze award. Do YOU know to what we have committed to achieve this? Can you help with encouraging eco reps and supporting behaviours that help God's creation?



St Peter's Eco Team

Three things strike me:

- 1. They have a team**
 - 2. They involve the local community**
 - 3. The church thrives as a result**
- If anyone would like to help in any way and be part of this in our churches, please get in touch.**

Chris Curd, Eco Champion
(see contact box on the back page)

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."



The Robin on my Christmas Card

Nigel Beeton

The Robin on my Christmas Card
Upon a postbox, red –
He fixed me with a gaze quite hard
And this is what he said:

“O, viewer of this Christmas card
I bet that you don’t know
Why I upon this card am here
To bring a yuletide glow?”

I said to him, “O birdie, do
Reveal your secret deep
I see you all the yearlong
through
And hear your joyful cheep!

“So why, O Robin, tell me why
When you’re around all year
On lawn, or branch, or in the
sky
Why now this Christmas
cheer?”

He said to me that long ago
The postmen you would see
Their jackets vivid red would
glow –
“In fact, they looked like me!

“From then till now my bright
red breast
And cheery trilling tweet
Has come upon the Christmas
fest
To bring a Christmas treat!”

CONTACTS DURING THE VACANCY



There is currently no Rector or Licensed member of the clergy in our three churches. Services are being taken by the Ministry Team (Lay Ministers and retired priests). The service rota is being put together by the Revd Helen Bays.

Contact details during the Vacancy are as follows.

Church Office 01626 864322. usually open Tuesday and Thursday mornings. At other times messages can be left. st.gregs@btinternet.com.

Baptism and Marriage—enquiries should be made to the Church Office as above.

Funerals—contact Lay Minister Mrs Margaret Noel—01626 863148; oldstokeroad57@outlook.com

Other urgent or pastoral enquiries

Please contact one of the Lay Ministers:

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148 Will Halse: 01626 866054 Ceri Lee: 07739 936286

- St Mary’s Cofton: If you would like to receive regular news from St Mary’s, please contact the Churchwarden, Valerie Jeffery, 01626 890401, valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk
- **St Mary’s Hall bookings:** Rachel Hammond; 07713 929148; bookstmaryshall1@gmail.com

Website: www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

Coastline Editor and **Benefice Eco Champion**

Revd Preb Christine Curd, 07771842334; prebchris2020@gmail.com;

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St George’s Holcombe; St Gregory’s Dawlish**

